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MONTANA DNRConversation

A Newsletter of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation • Director Bud Clinch
Volume 2 • Number 2 • May 1996

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Director Bud Clinch

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With all the government bashing going on these days, it would be natural for some employees to become a little dismayed and begin to feel a little discouraged with their efforts. While that might be easy to do, it would be a mistake. DNRC employees do make a difference.

"I strongly feel that everyone in this department has an important role in our overall mission. . ."

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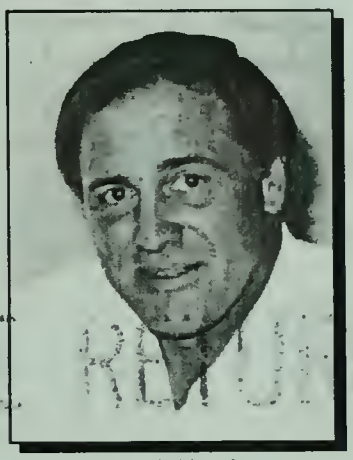


Photo by Jim Bond

Director Bud Clinch

I strongly feel that everyone in this department has an important role in our overall mission: *"to help ensure that our land and water resources provide benefits for present and future generations."* Whether assisting one of the many members of the interested public or providing the necessary internal administrative support, each of us plays an important role in the overall contribution of the department.

Whenever visiting a remote field office or calling on one of the local staff, I consistently notice many fine examples of employee work ethic and dedication. I am grateful for these efforts. By continuing to work together, this department can make a difference.

Keep up the good work!

NATURAL RESOURCE INTERAGENCY MEETING

This year's Natural Resource Interagency Meeting took place on March 14. DNRC Director Bud Clinch chaired the meeting, which was held at the Aladdin Inn in Helena.

Originally the purpose of the annual event was to allow agency directors to get together and discuss natural resource issues that cross state and federal lines. Now the meetings are attended primarily by agency staff. Sponsorship switches back and forth, from federal to state agency, year to year.

Federal agencies represented at the March meeting included the Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Natural Resource Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service), Bureau of Reclamation, and Farm Services Agency (formerly the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service). The Departments of Natural Resources and Conservation, Environmental Quality, and Fish, Wildlife and Parks (DFWP) represented the State of Montana.

Several DNRC staff made presentations. During the morning session, Director Clinch reported on the recent state government reorganization. Later, Ray Beck and Anna Miller discussed the grant and loan programs of the Conservation and Resource Development Division. Susan Cottingham of the Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission talked about the north central pipeline (see related story). Staff from DNRC, DFWP, USFS, and BLM reported on recent land exchanges.

Other subjects addressed included whirling disease, the watershed coordinating council, the wolf reintroduction program, and the new federal wildland fire management policy and procedures.

"To help ensure Montana's land and water resources provide benefits for present and future generations."

PERSONNEL PROFILE

SUSAN COTTINGHAM

DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR, RESERVED WATER RIGHTS COMPACT COMMISSION

"Lifelong dedication to consensus building"

Susan Cottingham loves a challenge--whether it be maneuvering a raft through the rapids or resolving water issues with Montana's Indian tribes.

Susan was born and educated in Pennsylvania, and she still has family in Philadelphia. After earning a B.A. in American Studies from Mary Washington College of the University of Virginia in 1971, she worked on occupational safety and health issues for the political director of a labor union in our nation's capitol. Washington, D.C., wasn't Susan's idea of the best place to live, however, and she headed west in 1973.

She landed in Colorado, where she first did silversmithing. In 1977, Susan began working for the town of Crested Butte, first as research director and later as town planner, on such issues as open space preservation, watershed and agricultural land protection, and mine permitting.

In 1982 Susan moved to Montana, which she says is "the smartest thing I ever did." She directed the Montana Environmental Information Center until 1985, when she began working on the water adjudication as a paralegal with DNRC's Legal Unit. In late 1986 she moved to the Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission (RWRCC) staff, where she researched legal and historical aspects of treaties, water use on reservations, and aboriginal lands. She became director of the RWRCC staff in 1991.

Susan loves Helena, enjoys wonderful friendships, and has "a really good life." Much of her satisfaction stems from her job. Trying to resolve issues with the tribes is consistent with her lifelong dedication to consensus building, and she finds it a "challenge to come up with some creative solutions to get water to everyone." Politics intrigue her, and she thrives on working with the public, other agencies, the legislature, and even the U.S. Congress to get endorsements of negotiated agreements.

Susan's many personal interests also bring her gratification. She's a gardener and cook who likes jigsaw puzzles and jazz. She's also an outdoors person; scheduled whitewater raft trips will take her down the San Juan River (Utah) in May and both the Smith River (Montana) and the Middle Fork Salmon (Idaho) in June!

Susan has accomplished a great deal, and she intends to keep on doing the best job she can right where she is. Her advice is to treat people with respect, and be happy.

Photo by Jim Bond

Susan Cottingham

RWRCC STAFF

Susan Cottingham ..... Division Administrator
Management, policy, and personnel matters; public and legislative liaison

Barbara Cosens and Faye Bergan..... Attorneys
Research legal matters; provide legal counsel

Joan Specking..... Research Specialist
Researches legal and historical matters

Craig Bacino..... GIS Specialist
Computer network; plats; maps; GIS analysis

Dave Amman and Bob Levitan ..... Hydrologists
Analyze water availability; predict impacts of various allocations on downstream users

Arial "Andy" Anderson ..... Soils Scientist
Analyzes properties of soil to see if it could support irrigation

Bill Greiman..... Agricultural Engineer
Assesses economic feasibility of potential irrigation given water availability, soils, and project design considerations

Fran Matkins and Dolores Eustice .. Administrative Support
Staff to commissioners' meetings; word processing; claims; mailings

PROGRAM FOCUS

RWRCC DIVISION

When Indian reservations were established, or when federal lands were set aside for special uses like national parks, it was intended that enough water be reserved to meet the purposes for which those lands were specially designated. That these reserved water rights exist is generally acknowledged, but no one had ever determined exactly how much water is involved.

Reserved water rights for Indian reservations go back to the 1800s. In the meantime, others began using water; their newer water rights are "junior" (lesser in legal standing) to the older, "senior" water rights. In many drainages, there's not enough water to go around, and water has become a contentious issue.

Susan Cottingham, administrator of the Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission (RWRCC) staff, thinks that determining the amounts of these reserved rights in the courts could result in large quantities going to the reservations because of their early priority dates—quite possibly to the detriment of some persons with newer rights. Negotiating the amount of those rights is an alternative that seems to be preferable to court proceedings. "We're trying to protect junior users," she said. "All state-based water users, whether for consumptive or nonconsumptive uses, are our clients."

Susan's group acts as staff for the RWRCC itself (see related article), and it has had some notable successes. Only one tribe, the Blackfeet, has elected to pursue its reserved rights through the Water Court. On the other hand, the RWRCC has successfully concluded all of the compacts listed on page 4.

The outcome of the compact with the Northern Cheyenne has stimulated a great deal of tribal interest in water rights compacts. Negotiations began in 1980, and both the tribe and the Montana Legislature approved the compact in 1991. In 1992, the federal government ratified the compact via "The Northern Cheyenne Indian Reserved Water Rights Settlement Act." Ultimately, $53 million in federal money was secured in connection with rehabilitating and enlarging the state-owned Tongue River project (see related article),

RWRCC Division. . . *continued on page 4*

Photo by Jim Bond

RWRCC Staff (standing from left): Barbara Cosens, Dolores Eustice, Faye Bergan, Fran Matkins, and Craig Bacino; (seated from left): Joan Specking, Bob Levitan, Bill Greiman, and Arial "Andy" Anderson. Not shown: Dave Amman.

RWRCC Division. . . *continued from page 3*

1985	Fort Peck Tribe	Signed by federal agencies; operable; has not been ratified by Congress (which would be required before water could be marketed and exported from the reservation)
1991	Northern Cheyenne Tribe	Ratified by Congress in 1992; ratified by the Montana Water Court in 1995
1993	U.S. National Park Service - Yellowstone, Glacier, and Big Hole Battlefield	Signed by the U.S. Departments of Justice and the Interior; does not need congressional ratification; wrapped into one statute with the 1995 compact listed below
1995	U.S. National Park Service - Little Bighorn Battlefield, Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area	Signed by the U.S. Departments of Justice and the Interior; does not need congressional ratification; wrapped into one statute with the 1993 compact listed above

one purpose of which is partial fulfillment of provisions of the federal settlement act.

Susan emphasizes the need for creative thinking to come up with innovative solutions. When solutions involve infrastructure construction or repair, as in the case of the Northern Cheyenne reserved rights and the Tongue River project, they can be very expensive. An Indian Water Rights Settlement Fund has been established by the federal government, but the recent trend of downsizing government and reducing budgets may hinder the resolution of reserved water rights issues.

For instance, after four years of negotiations with the Chippewa/Cree Tribe, the amount of water needed for use on the Rocky Boys Reservation is essentially defined. The agreement is being drafted now, and Susan still hopes for a 1997 settlement. The cornerstone of the agreement is a multi-million dollar pipeline project (see related article), however, and federal funds needed for a related feasibility study have not become available.

RWRCC staff are currently working with several Indian tribes besides the Chippewa/Cree. Technical work is underway regarding the Crow and Fort Belknap Reservations, and a memorandum of understanding is being entered into with the tribes of the Flathead Reservation.

Several projects involving federal reserved rights are also active. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management is seeking quantification of water rights in connection with both (a) the Missouri Wild and Scenic River segment, and (b) Beartrap Canyon on the Madison River. Negotiations are starting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding six wildlife refuges, and meetings are also being held with the U.S. Forest Service.

Successfully finalizing these agreements requires a lot of public interaction and education. "We involve the public every step of the way," Susan said, "beginning with explaining what a 'federal reserved right' is." A proposal that is not acceptable to the local populace will never get through the RWRCC, the legislature, and the Water Court. As Susan noted, "It's a political process."

Susan is proud of her staff (see sidebar on page 2). Most of the group have several years' longevity, which is important in providing continuity throughout negotiations. With the increased interest in the RWRCC's functions, the staff have been busier than ever, but they continue to produce quality products for the commission. "We're more sophisticated now, more creative," she said.

Susan has not lost sight of broader goals related to the RWRCC program. As she is settling specific water issues with certain tribes, she is also trying to build better relationships between the Indian and non-Indian members of the communities. She is also working to restore people's faith in government. "Even if we can't always give them what they want, they know we'll listen, and try to deal with their concerns," she said.

NEWS FROM THE HI-LINE

ROCKY BOYS RESERVATION/ REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

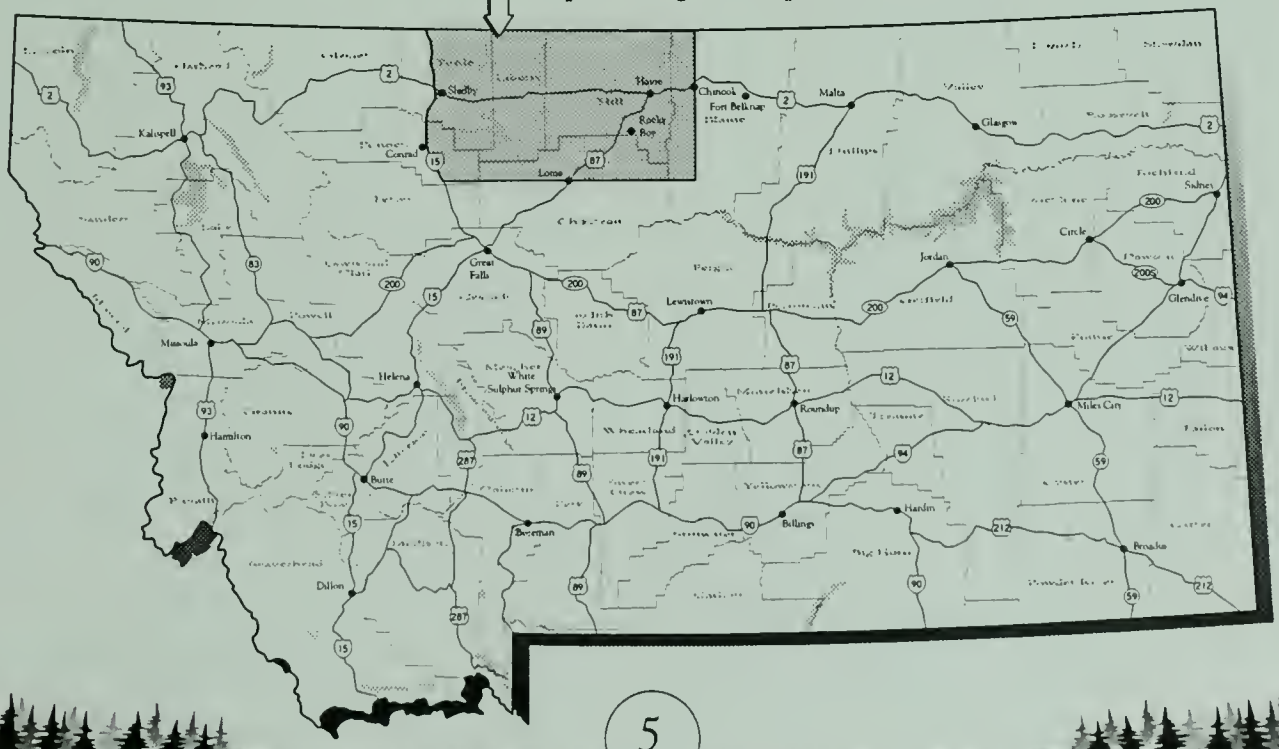
The Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission (RWRCC) has been instrumental in the development of a proposal for a regional water system in North Central Montana that would meet the domestic water needs of both the Chippewa/Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boys Reservation and surrounding off-reservation communities (see map). The pipeline has the potential to correct expensive water quantity and quality compliance problems and may ultimately lower the cost of delivered water.

The Chippewa/Cree Tribe is seeking the pipeline as a portion of the settlement of its reserved water rights. Negotiations among the tribe, the federal government, and the RWRCC are taking place concurrently with studies designed to assess the need for and feasibility of constructing the pipeline. About twenty-eight communities and rural water supply systems have expressed interest in participating in the feasibility study.

In August 1994, RWRCC staff briefed Governor Racicot on this proposal, and he then directed DNRC and the Department of Environmental Quality to take a leadership role in facilitating the project. The two departments have committed $50,000 to conducting pre-feasibility studies, and RWRCC and other DNRC staff have committed additional in-kind resources to complete ground and surface water availability studies and compile a base map of the existing and proposed systems. The staff also organized an Ad Hoc Coordinating Committee comprised of tribal and off-reservation water supply system leaders to cooperate in generating a bill in Congress to authorize the project.

The project is currently a victim of the congressional budget stalemate. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had added $300,000 to its 1996 budget to conduct the feasibility and preliminary engineering studies necessary for an authorization bill. Without passage of the EPA budget with those monies intact, the studies cannot go forward. Even if the bill were to pass soon, it is now unlikely that studies could be completed in time for an authorization bill to be submitted in 1996. RWRCC staff, committed to solving problems, are working with the tribe and the other water supply system personnel to see whether any other avenues are available to seek authorization without completion of these feasibility studies.

Proposed Regional Pipeline Study Boundaries



TONGUE RIVER PROJECT

A final environmental impact statement (EIS) has been issued on the proposed Tongue River Basin Project, an effort that would bring about (a) repair and enlargement of the Tongue River Dam, (b) partial fulfillment of the reserved water rights settlement with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe (see related article), and (c) enhancement of fish and wildlife resources and habitat in the basin. DNRC, the tribe, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation are sponsoring the project.

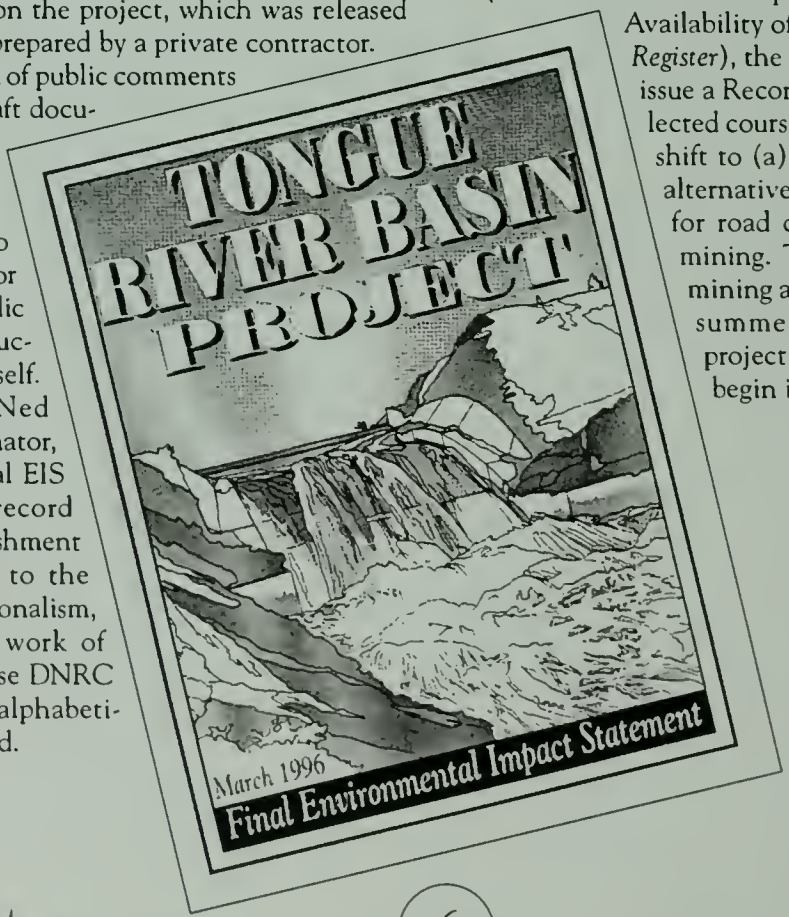
Impetus for the project really began with a flood in 1978, when the spillway of the state-owned Tongue River Dam sustained approximately $1 million in damages. The proposed project would alleviate dam safety concerns related to the inadequate spillway, protect downstream lives and property, maintain existing contracts for the use of water stored in the Tongue Reservoir, and provide up to an additional 20,000 acre-feet of water to the tribe. Fish and wildlife resources and habitat in the area also would benefit from project-related enhancement activities.

The draft EIS on the project, which was released in June 1995, was prepared by a private contractor. After consideration of public comments received on the draft document and in an effort to save taxpayer money, DNRC decided to take responsibility for conducting the public hearings and producing the final EIS itself. According to Ned Pettit, EIS coordinator, "The 456-page final EIS was prepared in record time—an accomplishment that is testament to the dedication, professionalism, and high quality work of DNRC staff." These DNRC employees (listed alphabetically) were involved.

Greg Ames
Seth Brandenberger
Ross Campbell
Chuck Dalby
Larry Dolan
Sonja Hoeglund
Nancy Johnson (now part of DEQ)
Stan Jones
Mark Kelley (now part of DEQ)
Joni Kittleson
Ned Pettit
Tom Ring (now part of DEQ)
John Sanders
Dan Vichorek (now part of DEQ)

In particular, Ned complimented "the tremendous amount of design, layout, mapping, graphic art, and other production work on the part of Ross Campbell [Information Services Section, CMD] and Joni Kittleson [Water Management Bureau, WRD]."

After a required 30-day period of "no action" (which started with publication of the Notice of Availability of the final EIS in the *Federal Register*), the project sponsors in May will issue a Record of Decision stating the selected course of action. Efforts will then shift to (a) final design of the selected alternative for dam repair, and (b) bids for road construction and aggregate mining. The road work and aggregate mining are scheduled to begin in late summer/early fall 1996; actual project construction activities will begin in early 1997.



RESERVED WATER RIGHTS COMPACT COMMISSION

The legislature created the Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission (RWRCC) in 1979, at the same time it established the Water Court. The purpose of the RWRCC is to negotiate the amount of water to which Indian tribes and federal agencies are entitled. The alternative to negotiating these rights is litigating them, which is less desirable because of the time, cost, and adversarial relationships that can be involved in court proceedings.

Montana was one of the first states to conduct such negotiations, and it is still the only state to do so using a commission. (In some states, similar negotiations are being handled by the attorney general.)

Montana's RWRCC is made up of nine persons, four of whom are appointed by the governor, one by the attorney general, and four by the legislature. Two of the legislative appointees come from the House of Representatives and two from the Senate; one commissioner from each of those bodies must be a Democrat, and the other a Republican. As a result of these requirements for composition of the commission, a variety of political views and a cross-section of occupations are always represented.

A commissioner serves for a term of four years. If a legislative appointee's term of elective office ends, he or she must be replaced on the commission.

Current RWRCC members are:

Chris Tweeten, Chairman
Helena
Deputy Attorney General

Bob Thoft, Vice Chairman
Stevensville
Rancher

Rep. Robert R. Story
R - Park City
Farmer/Rancher

Tara DeTuy
Livingston
Park County Attorney

Rep. Emily Swanson
D - Bozeman
Businesswoman

Gene Etchart
Glasgow
Rancher

Sen. Chuck Swysgood
R - Dillon
Trucking

Jack Salmond
Choteau
Rancher/Outfitter

Sen. Jeff Weldon
D - Arlee
Historical Consulting

These commissioners organize themselves into smaller negotiating teams to deal with each reservation or federal agency.

The RWRCC has a sunset (expiration) date of 1999. Previous sunset dates have been set and then postponed; an extension will again be requested. With the progress that has been made and the numerous negotiations now underway, the next legislature will most likely continue the life of the commission.

— EMPLOYEE COMMITTEE —

The Employee Committee started in the old DNRC in 1986. Each division appoints a member. The current members are:

Jack Zanto	Central Management Division
Dolores Eustice	Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission
Anna Miller	Conservation and Resource Development Division
Teresa Kinley	Trust Land Management Division
Patty Greene	Front Office and Legal Unit
Gary Fischer	Water Resources Division

Members have two-year terms, with half of the members being replaced each year.

The Employee Committee conducts a number of activities each year. For Christmas, it contributes to a party for DNRC employees and organizes the "Adopt-A-Family" effort. The next event will be the summer picnic; the committee is looking for volunteers to help with the planning now. Activities of a sub-group, the Beautification Committee, are explained in a related article.

When the old DNRC was housed in the Metcalf Building, revenue from the snack machines was used to fund the committee's activities. The committee has had about $1,500.00 from this source for each of the past three years. These funds were used as follows:

• Summer Picnic		$ 300.00 per year
• Christmas Party		900.00 per year
• Beautification		150.00 per year
• Adopt-A-Family		100.00 per year
• Miscellaneous		50.00 per year
	Total	$1,500.00 per year

With department employees now stationed in several different buildings in Helena, the revenue picture looks dim. Currently only earnings from the pop and candy machines in the basement of the USF&G Building go into the Employee Fund, and these machines provide only about $300.00 per year. The committee hopes to get two machines, one for snacks and one for drinks, into the Water Resources offices downtown and perhaps a juice machine on the second floor of the USF&G. If the fund's revenue comes from only the two machines downstairs in the USF&G Building, the committee's activities will have to be severely limited or dropped altogether.

If you have questions, talk to your representative on the Employee Committee or call Anna Miller at 406 444-6668.

—REPRESENTING MONTANA —

Tim D. Hall

Tim D. Hall of the Legal Unit has been appointed to represent Montana on a region-wide "Implementation Team" created by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The team, made up of Columbia Basin governmental entities and tribes, assists the NMFS in implementing plans (the 1994-98 Biological Opinion and Recovery Plan) developed to help restore salmon in the Pacific Northwest. Several salmon species are listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

The Implementation Team attempts to reach consensus on various issues affecting salmon in the Columbia Basin. For instance, providing additional water downstream can enhance salmon migration to the ocean. However, if these downstream flows are provided by extensive drawdowns of upstream reservoirs like Libby and Hungry Horse, resident fish such as the bull trout, white sturgeon, and westslope cutthroat trout are harmed. Big drawdowns also hurt recreation and hydropower production.

Tim's role on the team will help Montana protect its reservoirs and resident fish. We will also be better prepared for litigation, if the situation comes to that.

Photo by Jim Bond

Tim D. Hall

—EXECUTIVE PLANNING PROCESS

Even though the next legislative session is almost a year away, state agencies are already working on the 1999 Biennium Executive Budget. Instructions for assembling agency input into the Executive Planning Process (EPP) were distributed by the Governor's Office in February. A brief synopsis of this process follows.

The EPP is a three-tiered budget building system.

- The first tier is the agency *Base Budget*, which refers to the "level of funding authorized by the previous legislature" and is represented using FY 96 expenditures. This will include all agency reorganization that occurred prior to April 1996. Agency base budget requests are due to the Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP) in August.
- The second tier is the *Present Law Base*, which refers to "that additional level of funding needed under present law to maintain operations and services at the level authorized by the previous legislature..." and includes such changes as those resulting from legally mandated workload and inflationary adjustments. Included here are changes necessary to fund the personal services budget, inflationary and deflationary adjustments, and equipment replacement requests.
- The third tier is agency *New Proposals*, which refers to all "requests to provide new non-mandated services, to change program services, to eliminate existing services, or to change sources of funding..." New proposals were due to the budget office by May 1.

Present law base adjustments (second tier), when added to the budget base (first tier), result in a budget that is comparable to what in the past has been referred to as "current level funding." New proposals (third tier) are comparable to what was previously referred to as "modified level funding." Together, they form the Governor's Executive Budget.

Besides budgets, DNRC is also preparing draft legislation which it will recommend for introduction in the next legislative session. Conceptual drafts of proposed legislation were due to the Governor's Office by May 1, and final drafts by September 3.

After review by OBPP, the department will get an opportunity in October to resolve any outstanding budget or legislative issues. The Governor's Office will make the completed budget available to the public and agencies by December 2.

NEW FACES, NEW JOBS

These persons either started employment with DNRC or changed positions within the agency during the first quarter of 1996. We wish you success in your new job!

January

Steve Kamps was hired as forester at the Northwestern Land Office in Polson. Steve has been a forestry technician at the Superior Ranger District (U.S. Forest Service) and a forester for the NorthWood Consulting Group in Sandpoint, Idaho.

Tobin Kelly was hired as a forester in the Southwestern Land Office in Anaconda. He was formerly a forest technician with the U. S. Forest Service, Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute. Tobin worked for the Department of State Lands (DSL) from January 1990 to January 1992 in the Kalispell Unit Office.

Clive Rooney previously worked for DSL's Reclamation Division, which was transferred to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Clive has returned to the USF&G Building as chief of the Special Use Management Bureau, Trust Land Management Division. Clive has been employed by DSL/DEQ/DNRC since 1994 and has also worked for the Department of Agriculture.

Kristine Hardman was hired as administrative support for the Information Technology Bureau, Central Management Division. Prior to this job, Kris worked as an accounting clerk at LifeNet Health in Everett, Washington. She has also worked for the Montana Highway Patrol as supervisor of data entry.

Eric Trimble, a forester from the Northeastern Land Office, transferred to the forester position in the Southwestern Land Office at Missoula. Eric has been an employee of DSL/DNRC since June 1993.

February

Kevin Benton transferred from the Eastern Land Office to take a position as forester at the Northeastern Land Office in Lewistown. Kevin has been an employee of DNRC since August 1995.

Erik Eneboe was hired as a land use specialist at the Northeastern Land Office in Havre. He recently graduated from Montana State University with a M.S. in Range Science.

Brenda Elwell, formerly a statistical technician with the Oil and Gas Conservation Division, moved to the Minerals Management Bureau, Trust Land Management Division. Her new job title is accounting technician. Brenda has worked for DNRC since 1983.

Susan Kirley was hired temporarily to replace Brenda Elwell in the Oil and Gas Conservation Division. Susan, who recently earned a degree from Carroll College in Communication Studies and Public Relations, had previously worked for DNRC as a secretary in both the Conservation and Resource Development Division and the Oil and Gas Conservation Division.

Richard Moore was hired as a forester (timber sales specialist) at the Northwestern Land Office in Kalispell. Richard comes to DNRC from St. Paul, Minnesota, where he has worked as a forester, forestry resource manager, and, most recently, a financial institution sales consultant.

Craig Nelson was hired as a forester (timber sales specialist) at the Southwestern Land Office in Missoula. Craig was formerly a resource manager at the Idaho Department of Lands in St. Maries, Idaho.

March

Gary Baty, who graduated from the University of Montana in May 1995 with M.S. in Wildlife Biology, has been hired as a fish and wildlife biologist at the Southwestern Land Office in Missoula. Gary's most recent experience was with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks as a wildlife research aide.

Ann Glubczynski was hired as a water resources specialist in the Water Resources Division's Kalispell Regional Office. Ann moved to Montana from California where she had worked for the U.S. Forest Service and the California Department of Forestry.

Robert Wheeler was hired as a forester (timber sale specialist) at the Southern Land Office in Billings. Bob has a PhD in Forestry from PurdueUniversity. He has a varied background in forestry including providing forestry instruction at Alemaya University in Ethiopia.

Christopher Pileski was hired as a forester at the Eastern Land Office in Miles City. Chris comes to DNRC from the Plum Creek Timber Company in Missoula.

Robert Richards was hired as a land use specialist at the Northeastern Land Office in Glasgow. Robert returned to Montana from Missouri where he worked as a research assistant at the University of Missouri.

Jason Mogilefsky was hired as a forester at the Northeastern Land Office in Lewistown. Jason has worked in forestry for nearly ten years, most recently at Lubrecht Experimental Forest (University of Montana) at Greenough.

BEAUTIFYING BUILDINGS IN HELENA

The Building Beautification Committee (BBC) has started to distribute and hang artwork that came from the Metcalf Building in Helena. Seven pictures that depict the celebration of *Bannack Days* now hang in the "*Mole Hole*" (the USF&G Building's basement conference room). Three *Indian Market Days* posters are on display in common areas of the Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission, and three posters were taken to the New York Store.

The BBC is a sub-group of the DNRC Employee Committee (see related article). In 1991, the BBC began pursuing its objective of brightening up the Metcalf Building. Various associations donated art and posters illustrating Montana events. The BBC held fundraisers to pay for the framing of the posters and decided to place them in common areas of the building. In this way, everyone—both employees and the public—could enjoy the artwork. The posters were framed by Mark Marty, a former employee, who did an excellent job and charged only a minimal fee. The BBC also purchased silk flowers and live ivy plants to help spruce up the building.

Since reorganization, some of these items have been distributed to DEQ, because some DEQ employees (those from the former DNRC Energy Division) helped pay for the framing.

The BBC will soon be framing additional posters and acquiring new plants and pictures for distribution throughout the DNRC locations in Helena. If you have suggestions for the committee, would like to serve on it, or would like to contract to do the framing, please contact Patty Greene (406 444-6699), Fran Matkins (444-6841), or Carol Skufka (444-6735).

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